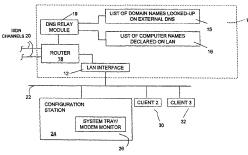
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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PURILISHED LINDER THE PATENT COOPERATION

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : H04L 29/12, 12/46	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/27092 (43) International Publication Date: 11 May 2000 (11.05.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCTC/. (22) International Filing Date: 29 October 1999. (30) Priority Data: 2,252,207 30 October 1998 (30.10.98; 2.252,207 30 October 1998 (30.10.98; TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION [CA/CA. Cavendis Bivd., Montreat, Quebec Had 2'99 (C. 72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MOINEAU (CA/CA): 3255 Daibé-Viau, Lachine, Québec (CA). DUPLAUX, Jérôme (CA/CA): 4850 Be (CA). DUPLAUX, Jérôme (CA/CA): 2455 Daibé-Viau, Lachine, Québec (CA). DUPLAUX, Jérôme (CA/CA): 4850 Be (CA). DUPLAUX, Jérôme (CA/CA): 4850 Be (CA). DUPLAUX, Jérôme (CA/CA): 4850 Be (CA). Guille (CA): 4850 Be (CA). Guille (CA): 4850 Be (CA). Guille (CA): 4850 Be (CA): 4850	(29.10.9 EICC EICC (3); 980 (A). I, Gilbe H8T 3N Ellechass	BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE BS, RI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HB, HU, DI, LIN, IS, P KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA MD, MG, MK, MN, WN, MX, NO, ZP, LP, FT, RO, RU SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SI, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, WA, RIPO patent (GH, GM, KE LS, MW, SD, SI, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurssian patent (AM AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AM AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AM CM, LN, FT, SE), OAP platent (EF, BG, GR, IE, IT, LU GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). T Published With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.



(57) Abstract

The digital network modern has a DNS Relay Module which answers requests for IP addresses using a local store of domain and host names with corresponding IP addresses and forwards the requests to an external DNS if the domain or host name requested is not stored in the local store of addresses. Also, if the numeric address requested is local and in a list of local computer names, the DNS relay module replies to the request acting as a local DNS server. This DNS relay module increases the speed of the request/reply sequence and does not automatically forward all numeric address requests to an external DNS located on a network.